

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A distribution system for transferring a plurality of items from a distribution center to a customer, said distribution system comprising:
a delivery device capable of identifying said items and capable of maintaining
5 a delivery record of said transfer of said items; and
a retail device capable of identifying said items and capable of maintaining a receipt record of said transfer of said items.
2. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device upon identifying said item displaying an item description on a display screen.
- 10 3. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device is a portable computer.
4. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device includes a barcode scanner to identify said items.
5. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device
15 includes a data entry apparatus to enter transfer information into said delivery record.
6. The distribution system of claim 6 wherein said transfer information is an electronically captured signature.
7. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device is further capable of storing a driver manifest record, said driver manifest record
20 containing a listing of said items and a status of said items.
8. The distribution system of claim 4 wherein said driver manifest record further contains a listing of a second customer and a second plurality of items to be transferred to said second customer.

9. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating an ordering record of a plurality of items by identifying a quantity of said item to order from said distribution center.

10. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating an inventory record by identifying said items within a store.

11. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating a price change record by identifying said item and saving a price change associated with said item.

12. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating a returns record by identifying a return item to return to said distribution center.

13. The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating a sticker request record by identifying a sticker item in need of a sticker to accompany said sticker item.

14. The distribution system of claim 1 further including a distribution center computer capable of communicating with said delivery device.

15. The distribution system of claim 14 wherein said delivery device transfers said delivery record to said distribution center computer.

16. The distribution system of claim 14 wherein said retail device is capable of communicating with said distribution center computer.

17. A method for distributing a plurality of items to a customer comprising the steps of:
placing said items destined for said customer into a shipping unit;
placing a label on said shipping unit, said label having a unique identifier;

creating a shipment record identifying said shipping unit by said identifier and listing
said items within said shipment unit;

sending said shipping record to said customer;

delivering said shipping unit to said customer;

5 receiving said shipping unit by said customer; and

identifying said shipping unit by said customer using said shipment record, said

identifying by electronically reading said identifier on said label.

10 18. The method of claim 17 further including verifying contents of said
shipping unit using said listing of said items within said container in said shipping
record.

19. The method of claim 18 further including electronically recording any
discrepancy between said contents of said shipping unit and said listing in said
shipping record.

15 20. The method of claim 17 further including creating a delivery record of
said delivery, said delivery record created by electronically reading said identifier.

21. The method of claim 18 further including creating a receipt record of
said receipt of said shipping unit, said receipt record created by identifying said
shipping unit and listing any differences between said items listed on said shipping
record and said items within said container.

20 22. The method of claim 17 wherein said unique identifier is a barcode.

23. The method of claim 17 further including storing said shipment record
on a portable computer.

24. The method of claim 17 further including electronically capturing a
signature confirming delivery of said shipping unit to said customer.

